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ABSTRACT

In 1989, a longitudinal study was conducted of Associate in Science (A.S.) degree programs at Miami-Dade Community College from 1983-84 through 1988-89. A.S. program review standards set by the State of Florida require that 70% of program graduates either have found employment utilizing their education or be in the process of continuing their education at an institution of higher learning. Sources of data on graduates included state-level employment, university enrollment, and defense department information; a mailed survey of graduates; program managers' input; a survey of prospective graduates applying for graduation; job placement officers; and telephone interviews with employers. Study findings included the following: (1) the overall rate of positive placements for A.S. graduates climbed to a high of 89% for 1987-88 graduates, with this figure rising to 94.6% with the deletion of those of unknown status; (2) in comparing programs on the 70% placement criterion in 1984-85 against 1987-88, 12 (27%) of the programs improved while 4 of the programs that passed in 1984-85 failed to meet standards in 1987-88; (3) 18% of 1987-88 A.S. graduates were continuing their education; (4) 67% of the 1987-88 A.S. graduates in early childhood education, 61% in vision care technology, and 53% in aviation and allied studies were continuing their education; (5) as a group, health programs surpassed the overall placement rate of 89%, as did the law enforcement (99% successfully placed) and fire science technology (100% successfully placed); and (6) Hispanic, White, and Black A.S. graduates experienced equally high successful placement rates. Attached appendixes provide the data gathering methodology and explain the levels of program review. (JMC)

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Research Report No. 89-26R

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District Administration

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Miami-Dade Community College

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PROGRAM REVIEW: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS 1983-84 THROUGH 1988-89

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December 1989

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Program Review: A Longitudinal Study of Associate in Science Degree Programs (1983-84 Through 1988-89)

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to examine Associate in Science degree programs at Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) according to criteria set by the State of Florida. These criteria are in response to legislative initiatives directed at accountability. Essentially, the accountability question is whether academic training at Miami-Dade Community College is yielding positive results defined as: 1) Employment of graduates in jobs related to the field of training or 2) Continuing education of graduates. A graduate is considered to have been successfully placed if either outcome ensues. The follow-up or tracking of students to determine placement is an integral facet of the program review process.

Methodology

Associate in Science programs meet State program review standards if 70% of graduates have either found employment utilizing their education or are continuing their education at an institution of higher learning. Follow-up data on graduates come from numerous sources, specifically: 1) State-level tape with employment, university enrollment, and defense department information; 2) Postal survey conducted by Institutional Research; 3) Program Manager's input; 4) Survey completed by prospective graduates when they apply for graduation; 5) Data kept by job placement officers; and 6) Telephone interviews with employers. (See Appendix A for a complete description of the follow-up methodology).

Program Review Process

The review process follows a three year cycle. Programs falling below the 70% placement standard are identified during the first year (Program Review - Level I). If the same program fails to meet the standard a second successive year, an intensive evaluation of the program is conducted by the program manager (Program Review - Level II). Should this program fall below the standard in the third consecutive year, Florida statutes mandate that program funding be terminated. (See Appendix B for details).

Analyses of Tables

Table 1 summarizes Associate in Science (A.S.) degree enrollments, completions (graduates), and placement status for 1983-84 through 1988-89. Data in the table are primarily from reports mandated by the State of Florida for the years given. A brief statement regarding definitions is in order. A student who is an A.S. program enrollee must have earned 15 credit hours excluding college preparatory and English as a Second Language courses. Other students with an A.S. intent are categorized for state reporting purposes as "General Freshmen." The Completion Pool excludes graduates who are Non-Resident Aliens (mainly Visa students) since these graduates are difficult to locate for follow-up. While not specifically sub-categorized in Table 1, nearly 18% of those receiving the Associate in Science degree in 1987-88 continued their education. Thirty-four percent of these were from South Campus.

Enrollments declined from 1983-84 to 1986-87, but have recovered over the past two years. The enrollment increases shown for 1987-88 and 1988-89 are primarily due to the creation of two new programs. These two new programs, Nursing Education Enhancement and Health Care Management, accounted for approximately one thousand additional students each year. If these two programs were omitted from the data, A.S. program enrollment would be virtually flat for the past five years.

Since the 70% placement standard went into effect in 1984-85, percentages for positive placements have risen. Greater resources were expended in tracking elusive graduates. In 1987-88 the development of additional data sources resulted in a historic high of 89% positive placements. Data for 1988-89 placements will be available in July of 1990. Figure 1 is a visual presentation of the data for placement rates of A.S. graduates in Table 1.

The State 70% placement criterion has been in effect for four years. Table 2 presents a summary of the number of programs that met the criterion each year. Of the 66 A.S. programs in existence in 1984-85, 47% met the criterion and 53% did not; total placement rate of individual

Table 1

Summary of Enrollments, Completions, and Placements
by Degree Type
Miami-Dade Community College
1983-84 Through 1988-89

Report Year	Associate in Science*			
	Enrollment	Completers Pool**	Number Placed***	Percent Placed
1983-84	7,923	996	705	70.8
1984-85	7,045	951	687	72.2
1985-86	6,791	949	823	86.7
1986-87	7,092	958	774	80.8
1987-88	7,811	904	807	89.3
1988-89	7,817	1,009	--	--

*Includes active Planned Certificate programs.
**Non-Resident Alien completers removed.
***Employed in related field or continuing education.

Data Sources: AA-2C for years given

Figure 1

Placement Rates for A.S. Graduates

Miami-Dade Community College
1983-84 Through 1987-88

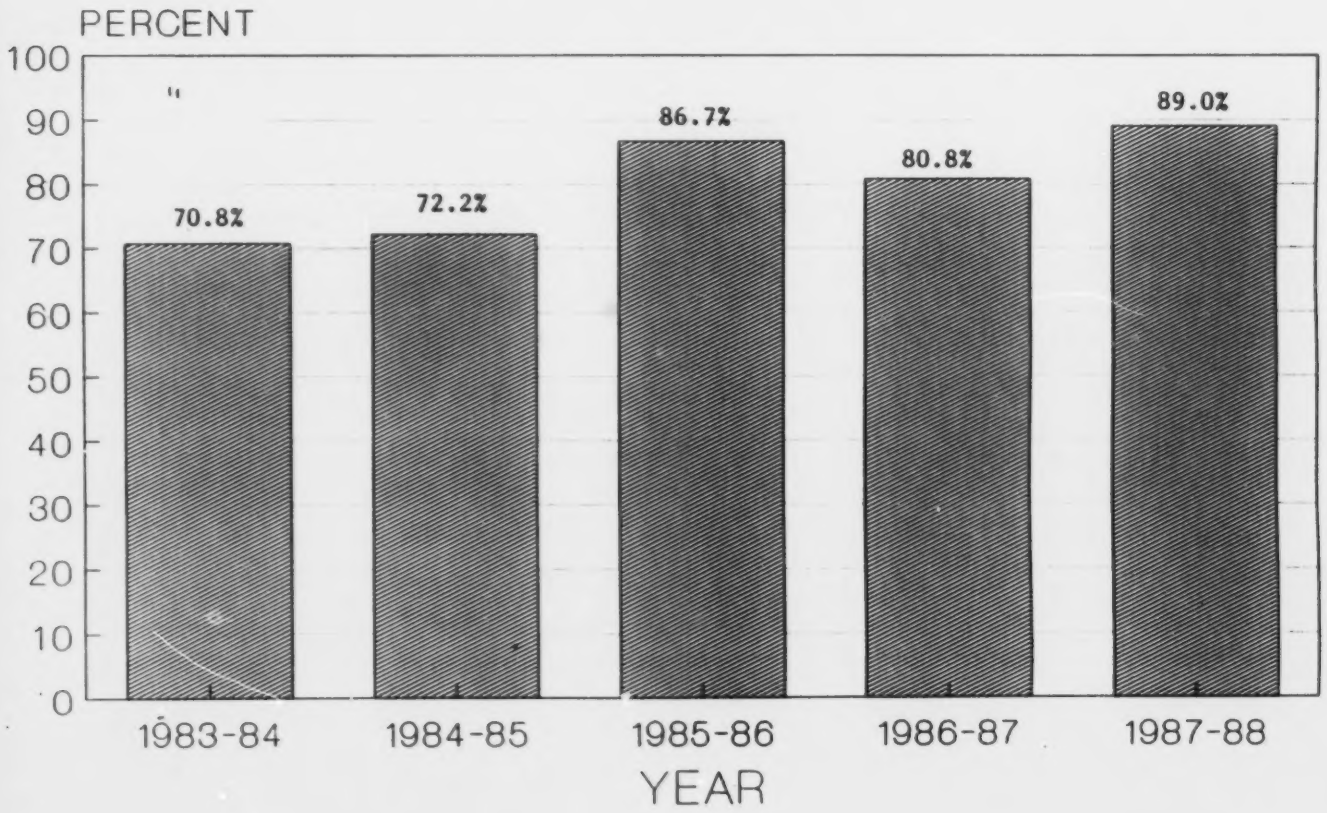

Table 2

Associate in Science Placement Rates for Completers
Miami-Dade Community College
1985-86 Through 1987-88

Graduation Year	70% Placement Criterion								Total			
	At or Above Criterion				Below Criterion						Placement	
	Number of Programs	Completers Pool	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Programs	Completers Pool	Number Placed	Percent Placed*	Number of Programs	Completers Pool	Number	Percent
1984-85	31	717	567	79	35	217	124	57	66	934	691	74
1985-86	33	862	784	91	19	87	40	46	52	949	823	87
1986-87	35	816	689	84	16	124	85	69	51	940	774	82
1987-88	34	858	782	91	15	46	25	54	49	904	807	89

*Includes active Planned Certificate.

graduates was 74%. By 1987-88 the overall placement rate climbed to 89%. What appears to be a sizable improvement in placement rates is due partly to consolidation and elimination of programs. Note that there are 17 fewer programs currently than was true in 1984-85. The number of programs above the 70% criterion has changed only slightly during this time (from 31 to 34 programs), while the number below the criterion has decreased dramatically (from 35 to 15 programs).

In 1987-88, 34 (69%) of the 49 existing programs met the standard while 15 (31%) of the programs did not meet the 70% minimum placement criterion. For programs not meeting criterion, 9 of these 15 programs had zero graduates and will not face mandatory State review currently. (The State of Florida will eventually subject programs with zero completers to the placement standards.) After diligent searches for the status of graduates of the remaining programs that had not met standards, eight graduates in these programs still could not be found. Combined with the 13 graduates who were in jobs unrelated to their training, six M-DCC occupational programs were thus placed in potential jeopardy.

Table 3 displays program-by-program data for those 44 Associate in Science programs still active in 1987-88 (plus data from 5 new programs). Data for the past five years are shown. In 1984-85 exactly 24 (55%) of the 44 programs met the 70% criterion and 20 (45%) of the programs did not. This is clearly poorer aggregate performance than evidenced in current data. Finer details of these program data, with regard to the 70% criterion in 1984-85 contrasted with 1987-88, show that 12 of the programs improved and four of the programs that passed in 1984-85 failed in 1987-88. These latter four programs have historically fluctuated precipitously in placement rates from year to year. On balance, program data indicate that the rise in the placement rate in 1987-88 can be largely attributed to intensified tracking efforts.

Table 4 summarizes the detailed placement status of the 1987-88 graduates from A.S. programs. Two Planned Certificate programs are included because their performance is also monitored by the State. Many changes in program titles have occurred. New titles are used in this table if they resemble the old title. Where title changes bear little resemblance to

Table 3

Follow-up of Associate in Science Graduates
One-Year After Graduation for Programs Active in 1987-88
1983-84 Through 1987-88
Miami-Dade Community College

Program Title	Program Code	1983-84			1984-85			1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
		Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed
Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Systems Technology	52	5	1	20	11	6	55	7	5	71	7	5	71	8	5	63
Architectural Technology	53	6	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	100	3	2	67
Aviation & Allied Studies (Aircraft Piloting & Navigation)	K1	19	4	21	10	7	70	12	11	92	18	10	56	26	19	73
Aviation Maintenance Technology	51	15	10	67	6	4	67	4	3	75	8	6	75	5	4	80
Banking & Financial Institutions (Financial Services)	R9	2	1	50	5	4	80	4	2	50	10	7	70	10	10	100
Building Construction Technology	64	5	2	40	4	4	100	4	1	25	5	3	60	4	2	50
Business Administration & Management	77	16	9	56	21	12	57	21	18	86	22	19	86	29	21	72
Business Data Processing (Computer Information Systems Analysis)	55	61	31	51	46	28	61	53	46	87	41	29	71	57	43	75
Chiropractic Technician 2	L3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil Engineering Technology	54	0	0	0	1	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial/Industrial Photography (Photographic Technology)	J5	10	3	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	50	2	2	100
Commercial Art & Advertising Design (Graphic Design Technology)	R5	0	0	0	1	1	100	12	6	50	4	3	75	11	8	73
Court Reporting	75	5	4	80	3	3	100	4	4	100	3	3	100	2	0	0
Criminal Justice Administration	84	15	10	67	14	9	64	7	6	86	20	13	65	14	11	79
Dental Hygiene	H4	36	29	81	81	72	89	38	37	97	47	36	77	40	40	100
Dental Laboratory Technology & Management	J8	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dietetic Technician - Nutrition Care	K2	8	7	88	5	4	80	2	1	50	9	8	89	8	7	88
Early Childhood Education (Child Development & Ed.)	94	61	22	36	24	23	96	12	10	83	23	12	52	37	33	89
Electrical Distribution Technology (Computer Integrated Manufacturing)	70	2	0	0	2	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	100
Electroencephalographic Technology	P2	3	3	100	3	2	67	5	5	100	0	0	0	3	3	100
Electromechanical Technology (Computer Integrated Manufacturing)	R4	0	0	0	1	1	100	0	0	0	1	1	100	0	0	0
Electronics Technology	56	56	36	64	46	31	67	53	41	77	63	42	67	33	30	91

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Table 3
(continued)

Follow-Up of Associate in Science Graduates
One-Year After Graduation for Programs Active in 1987-88
1983-84 Through 1987-88
Miami-Dade Community College

Program Title	Program Code	1983-84			1984-85			1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
		Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed	Number of Graduates	Number Placed	Percent Placed
Engineering Drawing & Design Technology (Drafting & Design Technology)	65	4	2	50	1	0	0	2	1	50	5	4	80	0	0	0
Fashion Studies (Fashion Marketing Management)	S8	4	0	0	5	2	40	3	2	67	7	5	71	6	5	83
Fire Science Technology (Fire Fighting)	T1	35	31	89	20	20	100	26	25	96	7	10	70	29	29	100
Fire Service Administration	T2	3	3	100	2	2	100	4	4	100	3	3	100	1	1	100
Funeral Services	62	29	20	69	31	26	84	22	22	100	30	23	77	16	16	100
Graphic Arts Technology (Graphics Design Technology)	R5	4	0	0	3	2	67	6	3	50	4	3	75	4	4	100
Health Education Enhancement	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	--	0	0	0
Hospitality Management	S7	21	11	52	7	5	71	5	4	80	5	4	80	4	3	75
Interior Design Technology	87	24	12	50	23	11	48	17	12	71	11	10	91	6	2	33
Land Surveying	J1	4	2	50	3	1	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landscape Technology	73	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	50	0	0	0	1	1	100
Legal Assistant Program	T5	1	1	100	10	9	90	14	12	86	16	12	75	24	21	88
Medical Laborstory Technology	M9	23	18	78	9	8	89	17	17	100	23	17	74	14	14	100
Medical Record Technology	M3	8	5	63	11	9	82	15	12	80	6	2	33	20	19	95
Nursing - ADN	82	140	129	92	97	74	76	104	90	87	104	90	87	89	85	96
Nursing Accelerated Option	P4	0	0	0	21	17	81	23	20	87	23	20	87	21	18	86
Nursing Jackson	P3	70	63	90	40	31	77	39	32	82	39	32	82	13	13	100
Nursing - Transition	P1	112	94	84	131	109	83	87	85	98	87	85	98	84	80	95
Office Technology	L2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	100	14	12	86	46	39	85
Physical Therapist Assistant Technology	M7	22	17	77	26	20	77	29	26	90	29	21	72	36	33	92
Postal Service Management	J3	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	100	1	1	100	0	0	0
Radio-Television Broadcast Technology	68	16	10	63	20	12	60	13	12	92	15	12	80	11	8	73
Radiologic Technology	M3	7	6	86	25	24	96	15	15	100	19	17	89	19	19	100
Respiratory Therapy Technology	M2	15	14	93	21	19	90	15	13	87	14	12	86	13	13	100
Sign Language Studies(Interpreter Training for Hearing)	J7	—	—	—	0	0	0	2	4	50	8	7	88	0	0	0
Travel & Tourism Management (Travel Agency Management)	K3	47	16	34	26	16	62	31	16	52	44	38	86	23	14	61
Vision Care/Opticianry	M6	27	24	89	29	27	93	31	28	90	24	18	75	29	28	97

Table 4

Summary Follow-up of Associate in Science*
1987-88 Graduates
Miami-Dade Community College

Program Title	Miami-Dade Program Code	Completers** Pool	Placement Status: Related Employment	Continuing Education	Unrelated Employment	Unknown Status	Number Placed	Percent Placed
Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Systems Technology	52	8	4	1	2	1	5	63
Architectural Design & Construction Technology	53	3	1	1	1	0	2	67
Aviation & Allied Studies (Aircraft Piloting & Navigation)	K1	26	9	10	3	4	19	73
Aviation Maintenance Management	51	5	2	2	0	1	4	80
Banking & Financial Institutions Financial Services)	R9	10	5	5	0	0	10	100
Basic Law Enforcement (Law Enforcement)	BL	95	94	0	0	1	94	99
Building Construction Technology	64	4	1	1	1	1	2	50
Business Administration & Management	77	29	15	6	3	5	21	72
Business Data Processing (Computer Information Systems Analysis	55	57	26	17	5	9	43	75
Chiropractic Technician 2	L3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil Engineering Technology	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Art & Advertising (Graphic Design Technology)	R5	11	6	2	1	2	8	73
Commercial/Industrial Photography (Photographic Technology)	J5	2	2	0	0	0	2	100
Court Reporting Technology	75	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
Criminal Justice Technology	84	14	5	6	2	1	11	79
Dental Hygiene	N4	40	35	5	0	0	40	100
Dental Lab Technology & Management	J8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dietetic Technician	K2	8	4	3	0	1	7	88
Early Childhood Teacher Education (Child Development & Education)	94	37	11	22	2	2	33	89
Electrical Distribution (Power Generation & Distribution Technology)	70	1	0	1	0	0	1	100
Electroencephalographic Technology	P2	3	3	0	0	0	3	100
Electromechanical (Computer Integrated Manufacturing)	R4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronics Engineering Technology	56	33	20	10	2	1	30	91
Engineering Drawing & Design (Drafting & Design Technology)	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fashion Studies (Fashion Marketing Management)	S8	6	2	3	1	0	5	83
Fire Science Technology (Fire Fighting)	T1	29	29	0	0	0	29	100
Fire Service Administration (Fire Science Technology)	T2	1	1	0	0	0	1	100
Funeral Services	62	16	16	0	0	0	16	100
Graphic Arts Technology	57	4	3	1	0	0	4	100
Health Ed. Enhancement (Allied Health Tech. Enhancement)	L4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4
(continued)

Summary Follow-up of Associate in Science*
1987-88 Graduates
Miami-Dade Community College

Program Title	Miami-Dade Program Code	Completers** Pool	Placement Status: Related Employment	Continuing Education	Unrelated Employment	Unknown Status	Number Placed	Percent Placed
Hospitality Management	S7	4	3	0	1	0	3	75
Interior Design Technology	87	6	2	0	1	3	2	33
Land Surveying	J1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landscape Development (Landscape Technology)	73	1	0	1	0	0	1	100
Legal Assistant	T5	24	17	4	0	3	21	88
Medical Laboratory Technology	M9	14	10	4	0	0	14	100
Medical Record Technology	M3	20	18	1	0	1	19	95
Nursing - ADN***	82	89	79	6	0	4	85	96
Nursing - ADN Accelerated Option***	P4	21	17	1	2	1	18	86
Nursing - ADN Jackson***	P3	13	12	1	0	0	13	100
Nursing - ADN Transition***	P1	84	78	2	0	4	80	95
Nursing - ADN, Aggregate of 82, P1, P3, P4***	-	207	186	10	2	9	196	95
Office Systems Technology	L2	46	31	8	4	3	39	85
Pharmacy Technology	PR	7	6	1	0	0	7	100
Physical Therapy Assisting	M7	36	29	4	2	1	33	92
Postal Service Management	J3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radio & Television Broadcast Programming	68	11	4	4	2	1	8	73
Radiologic Technology	N3	19	17	2	0	0	19	100
Respiratory Therapy	N2	13	13	0	0	0	13	100
Sign Language (Interpreter Training for Hearing)	J7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Travel Agency Management	K3	23	8	6	7	2	14	61
Vision Care/Opticianary	M6	29	11	17	1	0	28	97
Total		904	649	158	44	53	807	89.3
Percent			71.8	17.5	4.9	5.8	89.3	

*Includes Planned Certificates (BL, PR).
**Non-Resident Aliens deleted from pool.
***Nursing is aggregated into one program for State reporting.

their former titles, the new titles are enclosed in parentheses. The one classification that has remained stable in A.S. degree occupational programs is the Miami-Dade program code. To preserve program identity across changes, these programs codes are referenced. The pool of 904 completers omits Non-Resident Alien graduates. Four separate Nursing-ADN programs are shown, but for State reporting purposes all are aggregated as noted.

Though the A.S. degree is employment rather than baccalaureate oriented, among those programs having graduates, some A.S. graduates are continuing their education in 83% of these programs. Substantial proportions of A.S. graduates were found continuing their education in the following programs:

67% Early Childhood Education
61% Vision Care Technology
53% Aviation & Allied Studies
40% Business Data Processing & Computer Programming
33% Electronics Technology.

To facilitate comparisons, Table 5 isolates programs that met the 70% criterion in 1987-88. Most of these programs far exceeded the minimum required placement percent. The overall placement rate for successful programs was 91%. As a group, the graduates in the health programs have been the most responsive of all graduates to inquiries about their employment status, even before the State imposed its criterion. Health programs also surpassed the already high overall placement rate. The contractual programs (Basic Law Enforcement and Fire Science Technology) were also outstanding in their placement rates.

Fifteen A.S. programs were below the 70% criterion in 1987-88 (Table 6). As already noted, 9 of the 15 programs that did not meet the criterion simply had no graduates. Many of these programs also have had no graduates in prior years. Six programs with graduates were also below the 70% criterion. They are Air Conditioning, Architectural Technology, Building Construction, Court Reporting, Interior Design, and Travel. Each of these programs has met the criterion at least once in the three year cycle.

Table 5

Programs Meeting the 70% Criterion
Miami-Dade Community College
1987-88 Completers

Code	Program Title	Pool	Number Placed	Percent Placement
K1	Aviation & Allied Studies (Aircraft Piloting & Navigation)	26	19	73
51	Aviation Maintenance Management	5	4	80
R9	Banking Financial Institutions (Financial Services)	10	10	100
BL	Basic Law Enforcement (Law Enforcement)	95	94	99
77	Business Administration & Management	29	21	72
55	Business Data Processing (Computer Information Systems Analysis)	57	43	75
R5	Commercial Art & Advertising (Graphic Design Technology)	11	8	73
84	Criminal Justice Administration	14	11	79
N4	Dental Hygiene	40	40	100
K2	Dietetic Technician	8	7	88
94	Early Childhood Teacher Education (Child Development & Education)	37	33	89
70	Electrical Distribution (Power Generation & Distribution Technology)	1	1	100
P2	Electroencephalographic Technology	3	3	100
56	Electronics Engineering Technology	33	30	91
S8	Fashion Studies (Fashion Marketing Management)	6	5	83
T1	Fire Science Technology (Fire Fighting)	28	29	100
T2	Fire Service Administration (Fire Science Technology)	1	1	100
62	Funeral Services	16	16	100
57	Graphic Arts Technology	4	4	100
S7	Hospitality Management	4	3	100
73	Landscape Development (Landscape Technology)	1	1	100
T5	Legal Assistant	24	21	88
M9	Medical Laboratory Technology	14	14	100
M3	Medical Record Technology	20	19	95
82	Nursing - ADN	89	85	96
P4	Nursing - ADN Accelerated Option	21	18	86
P3	Nursing - ADN Jackson	13	13	100
P1	Nursing - ADN Transition	84	80	95
L2	Office Systems Technology	46	39	85
PR	Pharmacy Technology	7	7	100
M7	Physical Therapy Assisting	36	33	92
68	Radio & Television Broadcast Programming	11	8	73
N3	Radiologic Technology	19	19	100
N2	Respiratory Therapy	13	13	100
M6	Vision Care/Opticianry	29	28	97
	Total At or Above Criterion	858	780	91
	Total Below Criterion	46	25	54
	Total All Programs	904	805	89

Table 6

Programs Below the 70% Criterion
Miami-Dade Community College
1987-88 Completers

Code	Program Title	First Year Term	Pool	Number Placed	Percent Placement
52	Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Systems Technology		8	5	63
53	Architectural Design and Construction Technology		3	2	67
64	Building Construction Technology		4	2	50
75	Court Reporting		2	0	0
87	Interior Design Technology		6	2	33
K3	Travel Agency Management		23	14	61
	(Programs with Zero Completions)				
L3	*Chiropractic Technician 2	852	0	0	0
54	*Civil Engineering Technology	601	0	0	0
J8	*Dental Laboratory Technology & Management	842	0	0	0
R4	Electromechanical (Computer Integrated Manufacturing)	701	0	0	0
65	Engineering Drawing & Design (Drafting & Design Technology)	751	0	0	0
L4	*Health Education Enhancement	861	0	0	0
J1	*Land Surveying	801	0	0	0
J3	Postal Service Management	801	0	0	0
J7	Sign Language (Interpreter Training for Hearing)	832	0	0	0
	Total Below Criterion		46	25	54
	Total At or Above Criterion		859	780	91
	Total All Programs		904	805	89

*Zero graduations in 1986-87 also.

One of the problems associated with programs falling below standards is that graduates who cannot be located are considered to be "negative" placements. Beginning in 1989-1990, State mandated changes will permit the calculation of placement rates solely on the basis of graduates who have been found. This change will eliminate the "negative" placements of graduates whose whereabouts remain a mystery.

For the first time in program review analyses from Institutional Research, placement rate by ethnic background is presented. Table 7 contains data for A.S. graduates of 1987-88 . College-wide and campus statistics are included. The "Other" ethnic category is composed of Non-Resident Aliens, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives. Note that greater proportions of Hispanics continue their education (21.7%) than the other major ethnic groups. More than three-fourths of White and Black A.S. graduates are employed in fields related to their training. College-wide, success rates (employed infield or continuing education) for each major ethnic group among those completers who were located are as follows:

Hispanic	93.6%
White	95.9%
Black	95.9%.

Table 7

Associate in Science Placement Rates by Ethnicity:
1987-88 Graduates by College-Wide and Campus
Miami-Dade Community College

Categories	Ethnicity: Hispanic Number	Hispanic Percent of Category	White Non-Hispanic Number	White Non-Hispanic Percent of Category	Black Non-Hispanic Number	Black Non-Hispanic Percent of Category	Other Number	Other Percent of Category	Placement Categories Number	Placement Categories Percent of Category
College-Wide										
Employed Related	263	66.4	239	76.4	137	76.6	10	62.4	649	71.8
Employed Unrelated	24	6.1	12	3.8	7	3.9	1	6.3	44	4.9
Continuing Education	86	21.7	42	13.4	26	14.5	4	25.0	158	17.5
Unknown Status	23	5.8	20	6.4	9	5.0	1	6.3	53	5.8
Placement Pool	396	100.0	313	100.0	179	100.0	16	100.0	904	100.0
Percent Positive Placement		88.1		89.8		91.1		87.4		89.3
North Campus										
Employed Related	103	67.8	68	72.3	51	71.6	2	50.0	224	69.1
Employed Unrelated	12	7.9	6	6.4	3	4.0	1	25.0	22	6.8
Continuing Education	30	19.7	12	12.8	16	21.7	1	25.0	59	18.2
Unknown Status	7	4.6	8	8.5	4	2.7	0	0.0	19	5.9
Placement Pool	152	100.0	94	100.0	74	100.0	4	100.0	324	100.0
Percent Positive Placement		87.5		85.1		93.3		75.0		87.3
South Campus										
Employed Related	26	37.7	33	61.1	6	75.0	0	0.0	65	48.5
Employed Unrelated	9	13.0	1	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	7.5
Continuing Education	29	42.1	13	24.0	2	25.0	2	66.7	46	34.3
Unknown Status	5	7.2	7	13.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	13	9.7
Placement Pool	69	100.0	54	100.0	8	100.0	3	100.0	134	100.0
Percent Positive Placement		79.8		85.1		100.0		66.7		82.8
Wolfson Campus										
Employed Related	30	60.0	7	50.0	10	71.5	0	0.0	47	59.5
Employed Unrelated	3	6.0	3	21.4	1	7.1	0	0.0	7	8.9
Continuing Education	11	22.0	1	7.2	2	14.3	1	100.0	15	19.0
Unknown Status	6	12.0	3	21.4	1	7.1	0	0.0	10	12.6
Placement Pool	50	100.0	14	100.0	14	100.0	1	100.0	79	100.0
Percent Positive Placement		82.0		57.2		85.8		100.0		78.5
Medical Center Campus										
Employed Related	105	84.0	131	86.8	69	83.2	8	100.0	313	85.3
Employed Unrelated	0	0.0	2	1.3	3	3.6	0	0.0	5	1.3
Continuing Education	16	12.8	16	10.6	6	7.2	0	0.0	38	10.4
Unknown Status	4	3.2	2	1.3	5	6.0	0	0.0	11	3.0
Placement Pool	125	100.0	151	100.0	83	100.0	8	100.0	367	100.0
Percent Positive Placement		96.8		97.4		90.4		100.0		95.6

Summary

The legislative mandate for accountability of Associate in Science (A.S.) degree programs has been in effect for the past four years. This accountability monitoring is two-faceted and answers the questions of whether A.S. graduates are: 1) Working in a field related to their educational major or 2) Continuing their education. An A.S. program is regarded as successful if at least 70% of its graduates are doing either. Programs failing to meet the 70% criterion are subject to review. The reviews are intended to identify conditions that can be changed in order to raise placement rates.

Some Recent Findings Follow:

** The overall rate of positive placements for A.S. graduates climbed to a historic high of 89% for 1987-88 graduates. If those of unknown status were deleted, the success rate would be 94.6%.

** In comparing programs on the 70% placement criterion in 1984-85 against 1987-88 (for currently active programs only), 12, or 27%, of the programs improved; four of the programs that passed in 1984-85 failed to meet standards in 1987-88.

** Though the A.S. degree is occupationally oriented, 18% of the 1987-88 graduates were continuing their education. Thirty-four percent of those continuing were from South Campus.

** Some graduates were found to be continuing their education in 83% of the programs that had completers.

** Substantial proportions of 1987-88 A.S. graduates continuing their education were found in the programs listed below:

67% Early Childhood Education
61% Vision Care Technology
53% Aviation & Allied Studies
40% Business Data Processing & Computer Programming
33% Electronics Technology.

** As a group, health programs surpassed the already high overall positive placement rate of 89%. The contractual programs (Law Enforcement and Fire Science Technology) were also outstanding in their placement rates.

** Among A.S. graduates, the three major ethnic groups experienced equally high successful placement rates.

Appendix A
Data Gathering Methodology

Approximately one year after the date of graduation, tracking of students is initiated in order to determine their employment and/or educational status. Tracking begins by sending demographic data on M-DCC graduates and leavers to the Florida State Department of Education, Division of Community Colleges (DCC). Social security numbers from this M-DCC demographic file are matched against the social security numbers of several selected State data sources. The targeted data are obtained from this match. These State supplied data represent one of seven sources relied upon to gather follow-up information. A list of the mechanisms follows: 1) Florida Education Training Program Information Project tape; 2) Visual determination; 3) Postal survey; 4) Program Manager's input; 5) M-DCC IRS40 term tape; 6) Application for Graduation Survey/Job Placement Log data; and 7) Telephone interview.

The Florida Education Training Program Information Project (FETPIP)

The 1987-88 graduates (completers) were the first group of former students tracked through the FETPIP tapes. (Prior tape tracking used the State Feedback System which did not include military or community college information.) Information sources aggregated on the FETPIP tape now include the Department of Commerce and Labor, State University System, Department of Defense, and Community Colleges Feedback data. For the 1989-90 report year, postal employee and other Federal government employee data are scheduled additions to the FETPIP tape.

When the FETPIP tape arrives at the College, Department of Labor data (Standard of Industrial Classification - SIC code) are linked with the M-DCC's program codes and are programmed locally to reveal the employment relationship to college training. Aside from the bridge, other data of major interest on the tape which help to identify employment status are the job title, industry title, employer's name and phone number.

Visual Determination

Industry and job title data are examined for those former students who, by "bridge logic" programming, are coded as being in the unrelated employment category. In many instances the SIC/M-DCC program codes do not provide clearly defined information, or the codes do not coordinate with the industry/job title or the student may have been employed in several jobs during the quarter in which the tape information is captured. In unduplicating multiple records, data may be lost. To retrieve useful data and to over-ride programmed status information, these specific student records are visually inspected. Additional positive placement information is frequently acquired through industry and job title examination.

Postal Survey

Unlike previous years, postal mailers were not sent to the global population of Associate in Science graduates of 1987-88 for follow-up. The mailers were restricted only to those showing either an unrelated employment status or an unknown status. Delimitation of this survey was possible at this point because of the richness of additional data sources. Duplication of effort was also averted. Questions on these mailers and the mailers themselves were State mandated. The assumption underlying the postal mailer mandate was that questionnaire brevity would result in a higher return rate.

Program Manager

Concurrent to the sending of the postal mailers, program managers on all campuses are sent lists of names of students graduating from their programs for which unsatisfactory placement statuses are indicated. Data for these students either pre-exist with these managers or are obtained through telephone calls. The resulting additional positive placements are documented and authorized signatures accompany these documents. The documents form a base for future State audits.

M-DCC IRS40 Term Files

A substantial number of M-DCC graduates return directly to the College for supplementary credit coursework. Courses taken may be for transfer preparation, enhancement of employment opportunities, etc. For the first time, these graduates are being captured for State reporting

objectives and they become part of the continuing education pool. This, and to a minor extent, the FETPIP records from the other twenty-seven community colleges, has substantially increased the number of students found to be continuing their education after graduating from M-DCC. The pool is still believed to be under-reported; unsecured and unverifiable positive placements exist among those who are attending private institutions in Florida or are in related jobs out of State. Such data are extremely difficult to obtain.

Survey of Applicants for Graduation/Job Placement Log

Job Placement Logs are reports by students in Associate in Science courses regarding their employment status during a specific semester. These data are obtained in cooperation with course instructors and the campus placement offices. The Survey of Applicants for Graduation is completed at the time that the student applies for graduation. The essential questions for State reporting purposes are requested and these data, along with those from other sources obtained locally, are batched electronically.

Telephone Survey

Many telephone numbers of employers exist on the FETPIP tape. These numbers are often for the parent company or for the central office existing anywhere in the country. As many as twelve long-distance phone calls on behalf of an individual student have been made to verify information for programs that are on the endangered list. Because of the time/cost factor, this source is now reserved for instances where no other means have revealed positive placements.

Appendix B

Levels of Program Review

Level I Program Review

A general description of the levels of review follows. Programs falling below the 70% level are reviewed and those below the 60% placement criterion are automatically scheduled for an in-depth analysis. This analysis is two-fold: 1) Submission by the program manager of a "Modified Local Program Improvement Plan" (MLPIP), and 2) Level I Program Performance Review. The MLPIP gives a four year record of placement rates for the program in question. The problem statement is accompanied by possible alternative solutions. A plan of action for implementing the solutions and results complete this phase of the Level I review process. Level I program review is conducted on the local level.

The "Level I Program Performance Review" produces a profile of program characteristics. It displays the annual number of enrollments for the program. Placement rates for graduates and leavers for the past three years are vital components of this report. Student Full-Time Equivalents (credit/semester hour accounting), discipline, and direct costs data are shown as are ethnic and gender data. Ten indices (F-1 through F-10) compare standards with performance outcomes. Indices varying from prescribed parameters are flagged with an "X." A few of the indicators follow -- headcount of at least 15, completion index not less than 5% of enrollments, and cost of equipment. Flags show outcomes that deviate from parameters, but these deviations do not necessarily reflect negative performance.

Level II Program Review

The initial component of Program Review - Level II consists of the "Notice of Level II Vocational Program Review" display. This display is a checklist of flags denoting variances from standards identified in the Level I tally of flags. The method of review which will be used is noted by the State in this notice. Level II review also occurs on the local institutional level. The "Community College Program Review - Level II" is a probing written review required of program managers by the State of Florida. It begins with a statement of program goals along with specific entry-level

job competencies for its graduates. A description of the local job market status, as well as major national/regional/local trends, indicate future employment potential. Performance statistics for the past three years are required. Detailed data are supplied regarding full-time/part-time instructor ratios, equipment and resources, program offerings, and identification of program strengths and weaknesses. Level II reviews are coordinated with the programs that are scheduled for Level III review.

Level III Program Review

At this stage of the review process, the program under question has failed for three successive years to meet the State criterion of a 70% positive placement of graduates. Specific data required in the preceding two stages of the process have been amassed and evaluated. Intensive efforts at the local level have been made to save the program. If this fragile program were a subdivision of a broader field, it may have been absorbed into it. If it had an Associate in Arts counterpart, the Associate in Science program may then have been de-activated. New programs, under another award system and other conditions, may have been created to accommodate the assessed need. Or, the program may simply have fallen on its own lack of merit. Regardless of which approach applied, the program at the Level III stage is subject to program defunding. Aside from the programs identified for Level III review, other programs of particular legislative interest and relevance may also be scrutinized at this point.

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
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